

**Maryland Transportation Authority
Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group**

Meeting Summary

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2011
MDTA Bay Bridge Police Building

PRESENT:

Jack Broderick, Chairman	Nick Deoudes
Barbara Hitchings	Randy Landis
Tracy Schulz	Bill Nevel
Pat Lynch	Delores Green
Nancy Wright	

MDTA STAFF:

Gail Moran	Gordy Garrettson
Dennis Simpson	Kerry Brandt
Derek Jones	Mike Rice
Jennifer Williams	Neil Jester

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Broderick called the meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order at 6:07 pm. He welcomed all attendees. Mr. Broderick especially welcomed new members Ms. Pat Lynch and Mr. Bill Nevel. Ms. Lynch and Mr. Nevel represent the Broadneck Council of Communities in Anne Arundel County.

Minutes:

Nancy Wright moved approval of the minutes with amendments of the April 5, 2011, meeting. Randy Landis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Bay Bridge Activities:

Gordon Garrettson reported that traffic on the Bay Bridge had been flat, with a small one percent increase during the summer months. However, there has been a substantial increase in traffic on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sunday, July 3, there was a nine percent increase in traffic compared to a year ago. On Monday, July 4, there was a five percent increase in bridge traffic. He added that the Ocean City Hotel Association has reported that there have been good advance reservations.

Responding to a question, Mr. Garrettson said that there was an accident on the eastbound span on July 3. Nick Deoudes reported that over the weekend there was an extremely long traffic back-up westbound from the MD 404 intersection to the Severn River Bridge. The back-up was not related the traffic on the Bay Bridge.

Mr. Garrettson reported that lane closures continue on the bridge during non-peak hours from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to accommodate repairs and maintenance on the eastbound span. There also will be some closures on the westbound span. Finally, there are some scheduled nighttime closures that are necessary for suspension cable work. Other projects on the bridges include catwalk handrail replacement, toll booth repairs and replacements, toll booth tunnel repairs, exterior metal repairs, cable re-wrapping and dehumidification, structural steel repairs, pier repairs and wiring replacement. Painting on the westbound span will begin shortly and will be done over several years and under four separate contracts. Phase 1 work will take place under the bridge and will not interfere with traffic. This is the first time that the westbound span has been painted since it was constructed in the early 1970s.

Barbara Hitchings asked about the double white lines on the bridges. Mr. Garrettson said that repainting those lines is under discussion. Current regulations require that when there is contra-flow traffic, lines must be separated with a double yellow stripe.

The dynamic message sign (DMS) at Cox Creek in Queen Anne's County will be replaced and moved a short distance. Another DMS sign will be installed just north of MD 404 in Queen Anne's County. Both signs will inform drivers of any problems ahead and on the Bay Bridge. Work is expected to be complete by summer 2012.

The virtual weigh station on Kent Island will be installed during the next several months, with completion expected by summer 2012. The station will weigh vehicles as they approach the westbound span. The State Highway Administration (SHA) will construct the station and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Police will staff and administer the device. If trucks exceed allowable weights, MDTA Police will stop the vehicles on the Western Shore and take appropriate action. This weigh system was requested by the Queen Anne's County Commissioners as a way of discouraging overweight truck traffic in the county and on the bridge. Mr. Broderick mentioned that there was a proposal several years ago to install a truck weight station on Kent Island and that it was resisted by local residents.

Next meeting:

It was suggested that in lieu of a crab feast, members have a pot luck dinner in September. Barbara Hitchings offered to host the event at her house. Details will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

*Submitted by,
Gail Moran*